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Tacoma, Washington 98406-3925

Mr. Tom Loranger  
Program Manager  
State of Washington Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia, Wa. 98504-7775

December 11, 2006

**RE: Comment on Lake Tapps Regarding Draft report of Examination for Water right Application No S2-29934**

Dear Mr. Loranger,

I have reviewed the recommendations of the Lake Tapps Task Force (4Dec 06) and strongly object to the recommendations they have proposed pertaining to the flow regime in the White River and the diversion to Lake Tapps.

Their recommendation to eliminate the Minimum Instream Flow compliant diversion outlined in para 5.3.6 of the ROE opens the door to diversion that could be detrimental to the listed fish that citizens, governments and industries in this county are devoting extraordinary resources to protecting. To compromise this protection with exemption from MIS compliance would return us to the sorry state the river was in before this effort ever began where rules were routinely ignored and enforcement was virtually absent would be folly. I believe the Lake can be kept at satisfactory levels with a minimum instream flow requirement which would benefit all the users of the river's water including the fish which incidentally should have the first right to the water, before it is used to protect property values, tax revenues and to fulfill purely recreational uses which do little to preserve our environment. I urge you to reject this proposal and maintain the MIF outlined in the ROE as a minimum.

Their next recommendation, to determine MIS compliance at the point where the fish screens are returned to the White River is an equally preposterous proposal. The very purpose of the MIF requirement is to maintain adequate flows in the area of the river that the fish use and that is crucial to their survival. MIS compliance should be evaluated at a point just below the diversion dam to insure there is sufficient water in the by-pass reach for the benefit of the fish.

I believe that water withdrawal for consumptive use is a feasible course, but it must be done in a responsible manner that places the health of the river and the benefit to our disappearing fish first. To whittle away, piece-by-piece at the principles and protections we have established as crucial to our water quality and stream function solely for convenience or economic benefit is a poor strategy and a losing course of action.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

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